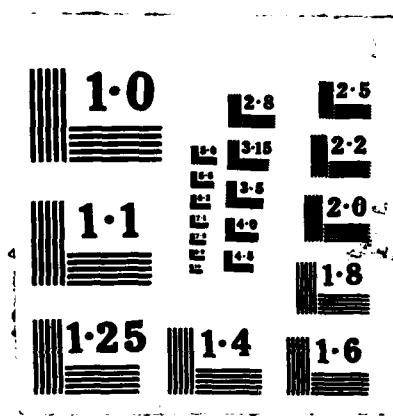


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## INTRODUCTION PAGE

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The First Gallium-Arsenic Compound Containing  
a Single Ga<sub>3</sub>As Unit: Isolation and Characterization  
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by

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The First Gallium-Arsenic Compound Containing  
a Single  $\text{Ga}_3\text{As}$  Unit: Isolation and Crystal Structure  
of  $[(\text{thf})\text{Br}_2\text{Ga}]_3\text{As}$  (thf = tetrahydrofuran)

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$[(\text{thf})\text{Br}_2\text{Ga}]_3\text{As}$ , isolated from the products of the reaction of  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{As}$  with  $\text{GaBr}_3$ , has been shown by X-ray crystallographic analysis to be the first example of a compound containing a single  $\text{Ga}_3\text{As}$  unit.

Prior to 1986, there were no published examples of gallium-arsenic compounds containing a single  $\text{As}_3\text{Ga}$  or  $\text{Ga}_3\text{As}$  unit. However, during that year two compounds of the first type having three-coordinate Ga and three-coordinate As were reported,  $(\text{R}_2\text{As})_3\text{Ga}$  ( $\text{R} = \text{Mes}^1$ ,  $\text{Bu}^t$ <sup>2</sup>). We now report the isolation and structure of a compound of the second type having, in this initial case, four-coordinate Ga and three-coordinate As,  $[(\text{thf})\text{Br}_2\text{Ga}]_3\text{As}$  (thf = tetrahydrofuran) (1). The reaction of  $(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_3\text{As}^3$  with  $\text{GaBr}_3$ , which affords the  $(\text{Br}_2\text{Ga})_3\text{As}$  species found in (1), appears to be the first reported of a tri(silyl)arsine being utilized to form the Ga-As linkage, and

*cont'd*

it further demonstrates the importance of silylarsines in the area of preparative gallium/arsenic chemistry.<sup>4a</sup> (Keywords: Gallium, Arsenic) <

A toluene solution of  $(Me_3Si)_3As$  (0.41 g, 1.39 mmol), cooled to  $-15^{\circ}C$ , was added<sup>†</sup> to a toluene solution of  $GaBr_3$  (1.29 g, 4.18 mmol) at  $-15^{\circ}C$ . After 15 h at  $-15^{\circ}C$ , stirring at room temperature for 24 h, and removal of solvent and  $Me_3SiBr$  (4.18 mmol, 100% yield) under vacuum, a yellow powder was obtained. A thf solution of the powder at  $-15^{\circ}C$  afforded, after several days,  $[(thf)Br_2Ga]_3As$  (1) as pale yellow crystals (0.37 g, 27% yield).<sup>‡</sup>

The structure of (1) is illustrated in Figure 1.<sup>§</sup> The As atom lies on a crystallographic  $C_3$  axis and, with a  $As-Ga-Ga'$  angle of  $94.4(1)^{\circ}$ , the  $Ga_3As$  skeleton is pyramidal. At Ga, the geometry is distorted from tetrahedral in response to the different steric demands of the substituents. Thus, the three smallest bond angles (mean  $100.6^{\circ}$ ) all involve the thf oxygen atom while the larger of the significantly different  $As-Ga-Br$  angles [ $As-Ga-Br(1)$   $124.0(2)^{\circ}$ ,  $As-Ga-Br(2)$   $115.4(2)^{\circ}$ ] is associated with the Ga-Br bond which more nearly eclipses an  $As-Ga$  bond [dihedral angles:  $Br(1)-Ga-As-Ga'$   $16.5^{\circ}$ ,  $Br(2)-Ga-As-Ga''$   $63.7^{\circ}$ ]. The  $Ga-As$  bond length at  $2.404(4)$  Å is the shortest distance yet recorded for a bond between a four-coordinate Ga and a three-coordinate As. It is significantly smaller than that of  $2.437(1)$  Å in  $\{[(Me_3SiCH_2)_2As]_2GaBr\}_2$  (previously the shortest recorded)<sup>4b</sup> and much less than the shortest [ $2.475(1)$  Å] of the two corresponding lengths in the cluster  $[(PhAsH)(R_2Ga)(PhAs)_6(RGa)_4]$  ( $R = Me_3SiCH_2$ )<sup>5</sup> as well as the shortest [ $2.470(1)$  Å] of four such distances in  $\{[(Me_3SiCH_2)_2As]_3Ga\}_2$ .<sup>6</sup>

Interestingly, the Ga-As bond length in (1) is also smaller than the shortest Ga-As distance [2.470(1) Å] in  $(\text{Mes}_2\text{As})_3\text{Ga}^1$  which contains three-coordinate Ga and three-coordinate As.

Finally, it should be noted that thus far we have been unsuccessful in our attempts to isolate a monomeric compound containing a  $\text{Ga}_3\text{As}$  unit having three-coordinate Ga and As; however, it is anticipated that with the appropriate substituents on Ga this should be possible.

We thank the Office of Naval Research for financial support.

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### Footnotes

† All manipulations were performed under a dry nitrogen atmosphere.

‡ Compound (1) m.p. 125-145 °C (decomp.). A satisfactory elemental analysis was obtained (C, H and Br).

§ Crystal data:  $C_{12}H_{24}AsBr_6Ga_3O_3$  (1),  $M = 979.86$ , trigonal, space group  $\bar{R}3c$ ,  $a = b = c = 11.765(1) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 107.04(1)^\circ$ ,  $V = 1354.7 \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $Z = 2$ ,  $D_c = 2.402 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ,  $\mu(\text{Cu-}\bar{K}\alpha \text{ radiation, } \lambda = 1.5418 \text{ \AA}) = 154.7 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Crystal dimensions:  $0.20 \times 0.30 \times 0.30 \text{ mm}$  (sealed inside a thin-walled glass capillary). Intensity data (660 independent forms) were recorded on an Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer (Cu- $\bar{K}\alpha$  radiation, incident-beam graphite monochromator;  $w$ -2 $\theta$  scans,  $\theta_{\max.} = 55^\circ$ ). The crystal structure was solved by direct methods. Full-matrix least-squares refinement [375 absorption-corrected reflections with  $I > 3.0\sigma(I)$ ] of non-hydrogen atom positional and anisotropic thermal parameters converged at  $R = 0.056$  [ $R_w = 0.071$ ,  $w = 1/\sigma^2(|F_0|)$ ]. Atomic co-ordinates, thermal parameters, bond lengths and angles have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. See Notice to Authors, Issue No. 1.

Legend For Figure

**Figure 1.** ORTEP plot of  $[(\text{thf})\text{Br}_2\text{Ga}]_3\text{As}$  (1). Selected distances (Å) and angles (°): Ga-As 2.401(4), Ga-Br(1) 2.321(5), Ga-Br(2) 2.341(7), Ga-O(1) 1.99(2), Ga-As-Ga' 94.4(1), As-Ga-Br(1) 124.0(2), As-Ga-Br(2) 115.4(2), As-Ga-O(1) 102.5(7), Br(1)-Ga-Br(2) 110.5(2), Br(1)-Ga-O(1) 99.2(6), Br(2)-Ga-O(1) 100.1(9).

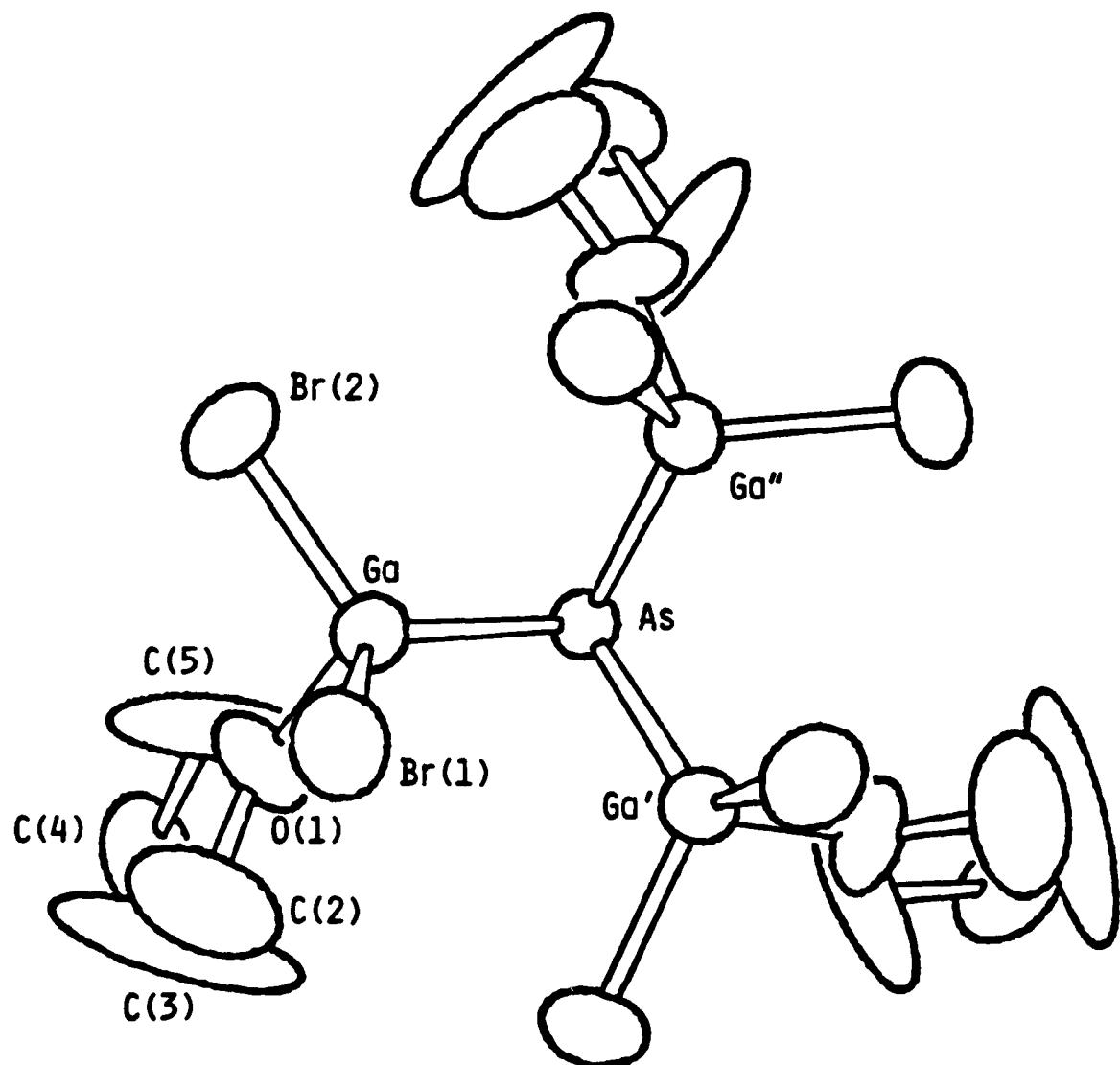


Figure 1

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